

SUMMARY of 2nd PORTS AND WATERWAYS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update

Meeting Time and Location

The second Ports and Waterways Advisory Council meeting for the *Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update* was held on March 5, 2002 at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Meeting Attendees

The following persons attended the meeting:

Consultant Team Members

Dr. Adam Prokopowicz, UNO National Ports and Waterways Institute
Dr. Jay Jayawardana, UNO National Ports and Waterways Institute
Butch Babineaux, Wilbur Smith Associates

Council Members

Captain Jake Stahl, Mississippi Valley Trade and Transport Council
Maggie Woodruff, New Orleans Regional Chamber
John Carnes, U.S. Maritime Administration
Fred Bullinger, South Tangipahoa Port Commission
Ted Falgout, Port Fourchon
Joe Accardo, Port of South Louisiana
Kathy Norman, H.S. Freight
David Wagner, Port of New Orleans
Dr. Bobby Scafidel, St. Bernard Port
Sherri McConnell, Ports Association of Louisiana
John Polanski, Port of Lake Charles

Non-Member DOTD Staff

D.J. Webre, LA DOTD
Dan Broussard, LA DOTD
Sharon J. Balfour, LA DOTD
Whitney Ledet, LADOTD
Dr. Eric Kalivoda, LA DOTD

The Ports and Waterways Advisory Council convened at 9 AM to discuss the Statewide Transportation Plan Update. In addition to members of the Advisory Council, there were representatives from DOTD, MARAD, Wilbur Smith & Assoc., the National Ports and Waterways Institute, several individual port authorities and representatives from the private sector.

The meeting started with a welcome address by Sherri McConnell.

Review of Status of Statewide Transportation Plan Update

Butch Babineaux made the first presentation, providing a briefing on the current status of the Statewide Transportation Plan Update.

Values, Goals, and Objectives for Transportation Plan Update

Dr. Eric Kalivoda made a presentation outlining the values, goals, and objectives for the Transportation Plan Update. Copies of a revised document titled "Values, Goals and Objectives for the Update of the Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan" were distributed for information and discussion.

New Role for the Intermodal Advisory Council

Dr. Eric Kalivoda outlined the organizational structure of the statewide transportation planning process and the role of the modal councils, the intermodal council, and the LIIEP Commission.

Existing Condition Report for Ports and Waterways and Analysis of Statewide Cargo Flows

Dr. Jay Jayawardana made a presentation analyzing statewide maritime cargo flows and trends.

Identification and Review of Strategic Issues

- ❑ *Coastal Ports:* Ted Falgout emphasized the need to incorporate data and activities performed by coastal ports in the Transportation Plan Update. These ports that function as supply bases for the offshore oil and gas industry are projected to grow significantly for the next 20-30 years. He stated that trucks deliver more than 7 million tons of cargo to Port Fourchon, which amounts to a sizeable share of the statewide intermodal cargo flows and is more than the tonnage handled on the Red River. As this aspect was not addressed in the 1996 Statewide Plan, attention must be paid to analyze the role of coastal ports in the Plan Update.
- ❑ *Commercial Fishing Ports:* Port activities related to commercial fishing need to be included in the study. The databases for analysis could be obtained from federal and state agencies such as National Marine Fisheries and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- ❑ *State Funding for Port Development:* It was noted that recommendations in 1996 study were instrumental for the current funding level of \$24.5 million for the Ports Priority Program. The Advisory Council supports the recommendation made at the July 2000 Conference that the funding level be increased by \$5 million each year for the next 30 years. The council supports at least the same level of funding seen in the past for the current year.
- ❑ *Landside Port Facility Development by the Corps:* It was noted that proposed legislation would provide for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to plan for

landside port facility development. The advisory council was not interested in supporting this measure at his time, because it may spread limited COE funds even thinner.

- ❑ *Federal Funding:* The issue of decreasing COE budgets for waterway maintenance came up for discussion and the council supported the view that the maintenance budget be funded from federal general funds.
- ❑ *Federal Funding for Port Security:* Federal funding is available for strengthening security at ports. This could be used for xray screening of cargo, physical screening and other security measures. David Wagner observed that the Port of New Orleans is one of the most open ports requiring security measures.
- ❑ *River Pilots Issue:* The question of whether the Council should take a position with regard to river pilotage came up for discussion. The issue is very difficult and political. David Wagner suggested that the Council not take a position on the issue. However the Council noted that a satisfactory solution is necessary as it affects port costs and thereby competitiveness of ports in the state.
- ❑ *Millennium Port:* On the Millennium Port issue the Council expressed its support to all efforts leading to market promotion and expanding Louisiana container market shares. It was observed that the Council should not get into specifics regarding individual ports.
- ❑ *Private Sector Participation:* Capt. Jake Stahl noted that private sector involvement and input is critical for successful implementation of public policies and projects. He emphasized the need to get the private sector involved in the development of the plan.

The Election of a Permanent Chair

Sherri McConnell was elected permanent chair of the council. She will represent the Ports and Waterways Council in the Intermodal Council and at the LIIEP Commission meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.